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April 4, 2001

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CONFIRMATION NO. 9088
ART UNIT 1645

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/666,890; Filed: September 20, 2000
For: **Nucleic Acid Marker Ladder for Estimating Mass**
Inventor: Hartley, James L.
Our Ref: 0942.2570003/RWE/DRM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Transmittal Letter (*in duplicate*);
2. Information Disclosure Statement;
3. Form PTO-1449 with cited documents; and
4. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents

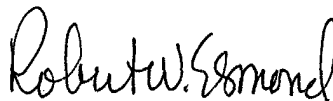
April 4, 2001

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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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RWE/MJC/ybh

Enclosures

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

James L. Hartley

Appl. No. 09/666,890

Filed: September 20, 2000

For: **Nucleic Acid Marker Ladder for
Estimating Mass**

Confirmation No. 9088

Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty. Docket: 0942.2570003/RWE/DRM

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

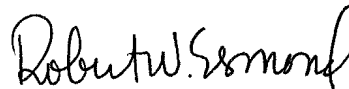
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 3, 2001

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